

Appl. No. 09/910,604
Amdt. Dated June 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 7 and 8.

The sheets which include Figs. 7 and 8 replace the original sheets including Figs. 7 and 8. The designation Prior Art has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner for acknowledging receipt of foreign priority document, Japanese Application No. JP2000-226449, that has been submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 and/or PCT Rule 17.2(a).

Applicant has amended the attached drawings for Figures 7 and 8 to include the designation of "Prior Art" as required by MPEP §608.02(g).

Claim 8 has been added to specify subject matter as disclosed in the specification in Figure 3.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's position, and solely to expedite prosecution, claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

As an initial matter, Applicant submits that the cited *Morimoto* reference is not a valid §102(b) reference, as it was not published more than one year before Applicant's claimed foreign priority date. Applicant thus retains the option of backdating their invention to eliminate the reference under §102(e).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Examiner has rejected these claims in view of the cited prior art reference of *Morimoto et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,759). The *Morimoto* reference, however, fails to teach or suggest Applicant's currently claimed invention. More specifically, *Morimoto* fails to teach or suggest a solid-state image apparatus comprising a first electric-charge transfer section for transferring signal charges from the first area in the

horizontal direction, and a second electric-charge transfer section *extending across the entire width of the image section* for transferring the signal electric charges of the second area in the horizontal direction. By placing both charge transfer sections adjacent to each other, extending the 2nd charge transfer section across the entire width of the image area so as to include a buffer / delay section before the data is output, driving both charge transfer sections with identical drive signals, and transferring signal charges in both charge transfer sections in the same direction, Applicant's have been able to reduce vertical-line noise and increase the simplicity of the signal processing system in a solid-state imaging device. (See top of page 17 of Applicant's disclosure). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections, and place claims 1, 2, and 4 – 6 in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Examiner has rejected this claim in view of the cited prior art reference of *Morimoto et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,759). For at least the reasons cited above, Applicant submits that *Morimoto* fails to teach or suggest Applicant's currently claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection, and place claim 7 in condition for allowance.

In regard to newly added claim 8, Applicant submits that *Morimoto* fails to teach or suggest such a driving method, as disclosed in Figure 3 and in the specification at the top of page 18 to the top of page 20 of Applicant's disclosure

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Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1794.

Date: 6/22/05

Respectfully submitted,

(Reg. #37,607)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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